



AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL REJECTION
EXPEDITED HANDLING REQUESTED - GAU 1615

02500.000006

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

HIROYUKI MORIMOTO, et al.

Application No.: 09/647,777

Filed: December 29, 2000

For: TABLET PRODUCTION
METHOD AND TABLET

Examiner: Susan T. Tran

Group Art Unit: 1615

December 13, 2004

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

AMENDMENT

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated September 13, 2004, please amend
the application as follows:

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the
United States Postal Service as first-class mail in an envelope addressed
to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-
1450 on

December 13, 2004
(Date of Deposit)

LAWRENCE S. PERRY
(Name of Attorney for Applicant)

Signature

December 13, 2004
Date of Signature

OK
to enter
8.T
1/18/05

a.) Amendments to the Claims

Claims 1-41 (Cancelled).

42. (Currently Amended) A method of producing a lubricated tablet, comprising the steps of:

selecting a granule containing an active substance, said granule bearing a coating film;

preparing a molding material by uniformly mixing said granule and a diluting agent, said molding material ~~not containing a~~ containing no lubricant;

selecting a tableting machine comprising a die and a pair of ~~up and down punches; said punches, said die and pair of up and down punches~~ being lubricated;

operating said ~~tableting machine~~ lubricated die and pair of punches to press said molding material and produce compressed tablets of said molding material without destroying said granule bearing a coating film, wherein said lubricant is provided only on a surface thereof and in an amount greater than or equal to 0.0001 weight percent and less than or equal to 0.2 weight percent per tablet ~~and provided essentially only on a surface thereof.~~

43. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 42, wherein said lubricated die and pair of ~~up and down punches~~ are ~~lubricated~~ prepared by the steps comprising:

housing said die and ~~pair of up and down punch punches~~ in a spray chamber, and

spraying lubricant onto the surfaces of said die and pair of punches utilizing pulsating vibration air.